

RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

British, the Tudeh brought to the fore the long-forgotten issue of the Bahrein Islands.⁴⁵ The Tudeh persistently opposed the incorporation of foreign advisers in the government, whether American, British, or French.⁴⁶ It was most vociferous in criticizing the American financial administrator, Dr. A. C. Millspaugh. Its press frequently attacked the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.⁴⁷

In internal affairs the Tudeh doggedly opposed every government with accusations of indifference to the welfare of the people, inefficiency, and hostility to the Soviet Union. The formula employed was a simple one and was succinctly put by the official *Rahbar*: "Every government which fights against the workers' movement is fascist, [and] every government which acts against the Soviet Union is fascist." ⁴⁸

Among the political parties that were special objects of Tudeh denunciation was, of course, the nationalist and pro-British party of Seyyid Zia ed-Din. The Tudeh heaped vilification and abuse upon him. Called a traitor and "chief of quislings," ⁴⁰ he was compared to Hitler and branded "fascist" and "reactionary." In the spring of 1945 *Rahbar* went so far as to demand that Zia be punished, threatening that "if the government will not do it, then the Tudeh will take matters into its own hands."

The Communists have recognized a potential source of strength in the minority groups of Iran. They have persistently appealed to them as loyal and worthy citizens and have won a measure of support from such groups as the Armenians and the Assyrians. Regionally concentrated peoples, such as the Kurds and the Azerbaijanis, are of peculiar importance to Communist plans. Although propaganda

45 *Rahbar*, May 29, 1945, in an article entitled "Bahrein Is a Part of Iranian Territory."

46 Even M. Godard, French Director of the Teheran Archeological Museum, and an utterly nonpolitical figure, was made an object of Communist attack. He was called "Dr. Millspaugh No. 2" by *Iran-i-Ma* in two articles on March 1 and 4, 1945.

47 Typical article in *Darya*, Jan. 6, 1945, analyzing conditions of labor in the Abadan refiner). For a standard Soviet attitude toward the Anglo-Iranian, see the following articles in *New Times*, Moscow: "Through the Oil Districts of Southwestern Iran," nos. 11 and 12, 1946; "Three Weeks in Iran/" by Vera Inber, no. 17, 1946; "Southern Iran Again," by M. Sergeyev, no. 20, 1946.

48 Nov. 19, 1944.

49 *Mardom*, March 8, 1944; *Rahbar*, May 7, 1945; *Mardom-i-Kar*, May 6, 1944.